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STREETVIBES \$1

Mar. 1 - 14, 2010 • Advocating Justice, Building Community • Issue 172

Being Homeless is Against the Law

Economic profiling treats
homeless people as criminals

By MARGO PIERCE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Affluent college students set up tents, cardboard boxes and crates on private property housed in their makeshift “shanty town” as a protest against the plight of homeless people. Living outdoors for a night – food, toilets and police protection readily available – this camping offers protection for a night spent in full view of the public.

A ragtag group of people huddles under a highway bridge, cars thundering overhead, setting up tents and a few belongings. They are waiting out a storm. It will likely be a few days before the rain finally stops, so they are grateful for the protection and a measure of privacy in a public place.

The first group will pass the night in relative calm after the TV cameras leave. The second group will be invaded by police issuing citations before forcing them back into the storm to look for some other shelter, possibly leading to more tickets. Both situations describe people creating their own shelter. The reason they are treated so differently is economic profiling. Like other forms of profiling – targeting individuals for suspicion because of their race, faith or nationality – economic profiling uses the appearance of poverty as a basis of suspicion.

Economic profiling is also used to create laws and ordinances that intentionally target economically disadvantaged people, frequently homeless, for the stated reason of improving public safety. The problem is that this profiling doesn’t work, and it sanctions discrimination against people who are different, feeding an irrational fear of “homeless people.”

Beautiful people can be homeless, too

If you saw David Letterman or Jim Carey sleeping in a car, wrapped in a sleeping bag against the cold, would you call the police and complain that he made you feel unsafe while walking your dog? Would Halle Berry, dressed in jeans and a T-shirt on a bus-stop bench, prompt you to tell a cop that a prostitute was soliciting in a place where children gather? Would those people inspire feelings of fear, disgust or self-righteous indignation?

Of course not. You’d look for a piece of paper for an autograph and get your cell phone ready to take a photo. The only difference between Letterman, Berry and other people on the street is that they managed to move beyond homelessness and became rich. When they were homeless, however, a call to the cops would have been a more likely outcome, because we treat homelessness as a crime.

See **Homeless**, p. 4

Stop Abuses by Military Recruiters

Cincinnati Public Schools has no policy to protect students

By SAMANTHA GROARK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (IJPC) has been collecting information about military recruiters misleading and harassing students in the Cincinnati Public Schools. The organization wants the district to adopt a policy to protect students.

Cincinnati youth are targeted by military recruiters to join the Army and the Marines, the military branches that have sustained 93 percent of the casualties in the Iraq War, according to Kristen

Barker, an IJPC staff member.

Over the past five years the Army has increased the number of recruiters who would normally be barred because of criminal misconduct or drug abuse, raising concerns of students being exploited. An Associated Press study found that one out of 200 frontline recruiters – the ones who deal directly with young people – were disciplined for sexual misconduct between 1996 and 2005. Hundreds more were accused of assault and harassment in districts across the country, including Cincinnati Public Schools.

Because of the national

increase in recruiter abuses, districts in many states have recognized the need for policies that provide clear guidelines to protect students.

“With ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the U.S. military has aggressively stepped up its recruiting efforts in high schools, spending \$4 billion a year on recruiting efforts,” Barker says. “Due to rising allegations of recruiter misconduct, the Government Accountability Office analyzed almost 11,000 allegations during a two-year period.”

The No Child Left Behind Act, passed in 2002, mandates

that schools give military recruiters the same access to students as college recruiters or lose federal funding. In the Cincinnati Public Schools, individual schools set their own policies on recruiters. In selected schools, military recruiters enjoy greater access than others. This includes frequent visits, prime locations in schools, administration of the Army Service Vocational Aptitude Test, access to some classrooms and presence in the cafeteria.

IJPC has collected stories of recruiter abuses, including misinformation about educational benefits, level of risk,

ability to select jobs in the military, recruiters following students around campus and repeatedly calling minors after hours.

“We’ve gone into the schools, we’ve heard stories from young people here about recruiters following them outside of the school, inside of the school, being in the hallways, the cafeteria, we’ve heard all kinds of stories about false promises,” Barker says.

High-school students not equipped to handle aggressive recruiting tactics might

See **Military**, p. 9

By The Numbers

670,000

The number of people who read *The Big Issue UK*, a British street paper (see page 3).

69

The percentage by which property values increased in a neighborhood, thanks to new subsidized housing (see page 7).

50s

Gloria McConnaghy's age when she decided to open a Cincinnati shop selling ethnic jewelry and folk art (see page 16).

2003

The year Cincinnati City Council passed a law requiring panhandlers to be licensed (see page 1).

84

The number of pages in a guide for people who want to file their own appeals before the Ohio Supreme Court (see page 13).

5

The number of minutes requested – but not granted – for a meeting between Metropole tenants and the secretary of Housing and Urban Development (see page 11).

11,000

The number of allegations of misconduct by military recruiters during a two-year period (see page 1).

Twice

The number of times Bill Walsh's team beat the Bengals in the Super Bowl after the Bengals failed to hire him (see page 12).

9

The hour at which the lights went out for the night at London Prison Farm (see page 10).

Streetwise

By GREGORY FLANNERY
EDITOR

Disposable Income Trumps Disposable People

How many poor people is the city of Cincinnati willing to push out of the way in order to let rich people have some fun? The current number is 150. That's how many residents are left in the Metropole Apartments, which is slated to become a boutique hotel.

How much money is the city of Cincinnati willing to give to developers to **help rich people have some fun?** The current amount is \$2.5 million, approved last week by city council's finance committee. But in case that's not enough, the committee also approved \$4.6 million in loans for the project.

The Cincinnati Center City Development Corp. (3CDC) purchased the Metropole Apartments late last year. The building has been a federally subsidized site for affordable housing since 1971, home to more than 200 elderly and low-income residents. But 3CDC finds their presence untidy; the corporation wants that part of Walnut Street to be a playground for people who have disposable income for theater productions, contemporary art, over-priced steakhouses and so forth.

All members of the finance committee voted in favor of giving the money to 3CDC for its fancy new hotel except Cecil Thomas, who abstained. The full city council is scheduled to vote on the corporate welfare package this week.

The *Cincinnati Enquirer's* report on the finance committee's vote contained a pleasant line about 3CDC's treatment of Metropole residents: "The Cincinnati Center City Development Corp. (3CDC) is helping them relocate." Sounds like noblesse oblige at its finest, doesn't it? Too bad it isn't true. 3CDC is, in fact, **forcing residents out of their homes**. Residents of the Metropole have filed a fair-housing complaint against 3CDC with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), alleging that their forced relocation constitutes discrimination – a fact the *Enquirer* didn't include in its report.

Unless HUD stops the deal, Metropole residents have until November to get their low-income butts out of the way of 3CDC and the rich tourists it wants in their place. The only reason residents have that long is because of HUD regulations. But that doesn't mean residents feel welcome in their own homes. Since the sale of the apartment building, tenants report that 3CDC and its property manager, Brickstone Properties, **have neglected to maintain the water-heating system**, leaving tenants to bathe and wash dishes in water that is lukewarm at best during the frigid winter.

Tenants also report being harassed by management and Brickstone personnel. Tenant Robert Wavra says he encountered a person in a hallway Feb. 10 and asked if she lived in the building. It turns out the woman was a Brickstone relocation specialist, who scoffed and asked, "Do I look like I live in the building?"

"I think that is an attitude that is sent down by Brickstone," Wavra says. "It's a mindset that we're different. I'm hurt by it. I've never considered myself 'not as good.' "

Rob Goeller, civil rights outreach coordinator at the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless, says he isn't surprised.

"This is exactly the kind of behavior we've been seeing with management and Brickstone representatives," he says. "They tell the tenants that they care, but there is an obvious lack of respect here. It's elitism. It's discrimination and prejudice based on class. Sadly, this is the type of behavior we've come to expect from Brickstone Properties and 3CDC."

Required Reading for 3CDC

Meanwhile Cincinnati has lost a woman who spent decades fiercely defending the rights and dignity of low-income people and others subjected to discrimination. Karla Irvine, who served for 27 years as executive director of Housing Opportunities Made Equal (H.O.M.E.), died Feb. 19. She was 76 years old.

"She is remembered as a **leader in the fair-housing movement** and a strong woman who passionately fought for equality and justice," says Kendal Schwab, education and outreach assistant at H.O.M.E. For a full remembrance of Irvine's career – or if you work for 3CDC and want to learn how to treat poor people with respect – visit cincyfairhousing.com.

A Continental Production

The article that leads this edition of Streetvibes ("It's Illegal to Be Homeless," page 1) is the first-ever collaboration on a single topic by members of the North American Street Newspaper Association (NASNA). To produce the report, editors of street papers across the United States and Canada shared information about the ways that **laws are used to penalize homeless people** for doing things outside that polite society prefers to have done inside – namely, eliminating bodily waste, sleeping, bathing and other necessary activities. Margo Pierce, a contributing writer for *Streetvibes*, volunteered to write the article. Andy Freeze, executive director of NASNA and former education coordinator for the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless, says street papers plan to collaborate several times a year on articles that have both continental and local relevance.

Streetvibes is an activist newspaper, advocating justice and building community. *Streetvibes* reports on economic issues, civil rights, the environment, the peace movement, spirituality and the struggle against homelessness and poverty. Distributed by people who are or once were homeless, in exchange for a \$1 donation, *Streetvibes* is published twice a month by the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless.

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The Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless

is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works to eradicate homelessness in Cincinnati through coordination of services, public education, grassroots advocacy and *Streetvibes*.

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8 MINUTES

with a

British Street Paper

A business solution to a social problem

By MARGO PIERCE
Contributing Writer

Homeless and “vulnerably housed” individuals in the United Kingdom (UK) stand on the corners of “public high-ways” (sidewalks) to sell street papers just like in the United States. Swap “sofa surfing” for “couch surfing,” “night shelter” for “homeless shelter” and “misusing substances” for “substance abuse” and the terminology describes an identical situation: *The Big Issue* magazine is the UK’s version of a street paper, printed for the purpose of giving those struggling with poverty a way to earn an income within the context of their current life circumstances.

“We do a very similar thing in that vendors who are homeless or vulnerably housed in some way ... purchase the magazine from us first – they don’t get it for free – and ... then they sell it for a profit. That core thing is the same,” says Emma Kernahan, an area manager

for *The Big Issue*. “The main difference (is) we work with predominantly white vendors – most homeless people are white in the UK – even in areas where there is a large, ethnic minority population. That’s the biggest and most obvious difference when I walk into an office in the U.S. And we work with a very large number of people who are actively misusing substances and have mental health problems. Those two things are intricately linked, so 90 percent plus of our vendors in my area are misusing substances, and it’s mostly heroin and secondarily crack.”

Kernahan, who is taking a three-month sabbatical from her job, is visiting various U.S. street papers in an effort to find new ideas and approaches for successfully merging social policy with business enterprise. Responsible for running four offices in an area called the West of England, one of the biggest issues she must tackle is that the company knows vendors actively use illegal drugs.

“We accept that it is a difficult issue for the public to swallow, that many of the people that they are giving money to are actively misusing substances like heroin and crack,” Kernahan says. “But the argument that we have is that those people would be misusing those substances whether or not they were selling *The Big Issue*. In the short term, we provide them with a legal and legitimate and structured alternative to criminal activity in or-

der to support their lifestyle – both their substance misuse and their essentials such as food and housing, shelter.

“In the long term, we provide what’s called a foundation worker; our charity wing provides a worker in the office who has access to all of the information about the services that are offered to help them out of their problem. It is not mandatory for them to participate and access that support but very few people do not – very, very few. Those that don’t tend to gain support from us in other ways.”

The Big Issue Foundation is a registered charity that has the mission of helping “vendors gain control of their lives by addressing the issues which have

contributed to their homelessness.” For those who are trying to break their addiction, the government provides a methadone prescription. But there’s a long waiting list, and

vendors need a way to survive.

The importance of dealing with the root causes of homelessness and poverty, such as addiction and mental health, became apparent to one local government after they asked *The Big Issue* to leave their community about five years ago. The council of Brighton adopted a “local connection” policy that limits services by the government or government-funded agencies to those who have family or have lived at least six months in the area.

“This is in the southeast of the country, which is an entry point for many people who have migrated into the country from a different area,” Kernahan says. “A lot of the people who are homeless there have originally come from elsewhere in the country because it’s by the seaside.

“The *Big Issue* company does not receive government funding, so we did not have to follow this local connections policy and on principle would not. The council in the area was unhappy with this. We were occupying a space that was ultimately owned by the local council, and we were asked to leave. Rather than relocate, despite the fact that was a very lucrative area ... we decided to leave that area rather than continue to work with a council that would not support us and instructed agencies not to refer to us.”

However, in 2009 the council asked



Emma Kernahan, The Big Issue UK. Photo by Lynne Ausman.

the magazine to return. After lengthy negotiations, *The Big Issue* returned to Brighton and has an office in a privately held building. The reason they’re back?

“The problems that they had five years ago were still there but the people that would have been accessing a legitimate income did not have that option open to them and so were often engaged in criminal activity,” Kernahan says. “They had problems with shoplifting, muggings, robbery, burglary – all of the things that come with a large homeless population which still exists in Brighton and, in fact, has increased.”

The criminalization of homelessness in the UK continues, as it does here in the United States (See “Being Homeless is Illegal,” page 1), despite efforts to work with the local councils and police departments. *The Big Issue* is continuing to find new and creative ways to assist vendors and educate the public. Volunteers are one example.

“We have trained outreach volunteers who ... go out around to all of our locations, meet with the vendors, (and) often get a lot of information from the vendors about the support

that they need ... because it’s slightly more informal,” Kernahan says. “And they make sure that nobody’s selling the magazine that doesn’t have a badge or doing it in the wrong way. They feed that information back to us and help us run a tighter ship and make sure there are less incidences (when) the public are unhappy with the service they get from *The Big Issue*.”

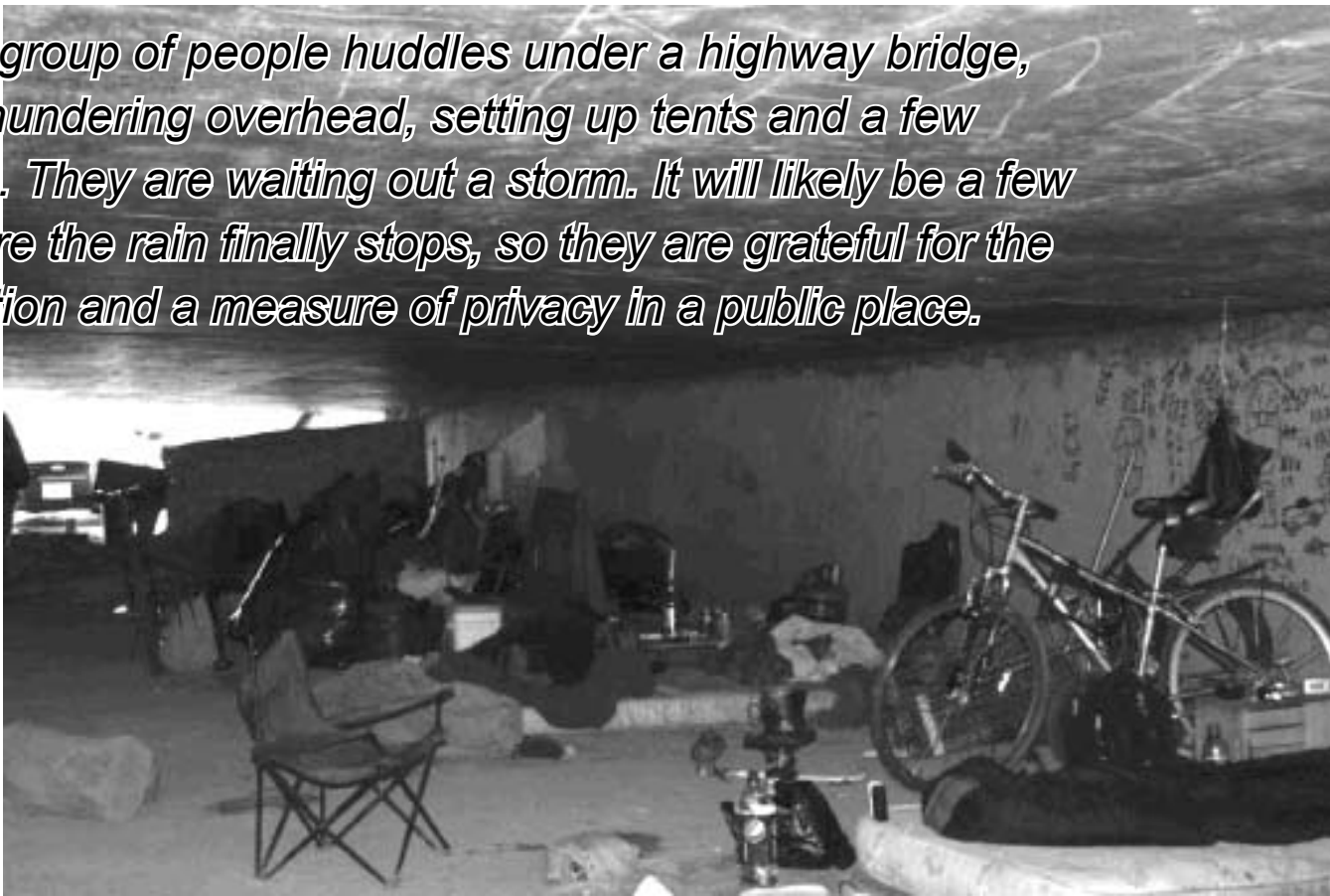
Impressed with the courteousness and personability of U.S. vendors, Kernahan hesitates to make any recommendations for how U.S. papers could replicate their success. *The Big Issue* currently supports over 2,900 homeless and vulnerably housed people across the country and is read by more than 670,000 people every week.

What is readily apparent is that *The Big Issue*’s use of language – terms such as “supporting,” “vulnerable” and their tag line – “a hand up, not a handout” – are less pejorative and in keeping with the company’s focus: “a business solution to a social problem, demonstrating that an organization can succeed whilst being simultaneously driven by commercial aims and social objectives.”

Many people work hard to make a difference for the less privileged in the Queen City.
“Eight Minutes” is an opportunity to learn who those people are and what motivates them to be a positive influence.

Being Homeless is Against the Law

A ragtag group of people huddles under a highway bridge, cars thundering overhead, setting up tents and a few belongings. They are waiting out a storm. It will likely be a few days before the rain finally stops, so they are grateful for the protection and a measure of privacy in a public place.



Homeless people camped under Interstate 5 until police forced them out. Photo by Libby Fernandez.

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In 2007 approximately 3.6 million people were homeless at some time in North America, according to a number of non-profit organizations. "Homeless" is defined in a variety of ways, so it is impossible to paint a uniform picture of what this reality looks like. But the numbers show that homelessness has reached epidemic proportions. The popular response is punishment.

"It's illegal to be homeless in this country. We have a form of economic profiling similar to racial profiling," says Michael Stoops, director of community organizing for the National Coalition for the Homeless in Washington, D.C. "It's a major problem, and it's not going to go away unless citizens demand that their cities do something about it in a positive manner."

This is true across all of North America.

"During the past 10 years the number of tickets given to the homeless by the police has quadrupled," says Serge Lareault, publisher of the Canadian street paper *L'itinéraire*. "Considered an 'open city,' many homeless have moved to Montréal, especially after the situation in Toronto, where the police decided to 'clean' the downtown of the homeless through ticketing and harassment."

"From 1994 to 2007 the population of homeless in Montréal has passed from 15,000 to 30,000. The tickets given to the homeless between 2003-05 total \$3.3 million, and they will never pay it, because they have no money. The majority of them say it's a big reason why they will not be able to reintegrate the society, because they have too much to pay."

People who live on the street or rely on shelters for temporary housing are on the outside of society because they appear to do things that are inappropriate. The law treats certain necessary behaviors as "anti-social" when they are performed in public. Criminal citations are often issued to homeless people for activities that everyone else does indoors or on private property: earning income, sleeping, eating, going to the bathroom or sitting down to rest.

Stoops calls these "quality of life" behaviors. Some of the laws barring them are cited in the *Homes Not Handcuffs: The Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities*, a 2009 report by the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. They include:

- Bathing in public waters
- Urination/defecation in public
- Begging/panhandling
- Camping in public places

- Sitting or lying in public places
- Spitting
- Failure to disperse from public places
- Washing cars or windshields
- Being without a shirt

Using a toilet is a universal need. You might think a person could just use the facilities in a public place such as a library or subway or a shelter. But that ignores facts that only become obvious when you are living on the street. Many public places can be too far away to walk to – assuming you can walk - and are locked much of the day. Many shelters have restricted access; not anyone can just wander in when they want. And businesses rarely allow people who are not customers to use their facilities.

Then there's the challenge of taking a shower.

Olympic Kidnapping

While advocates for the homeless recognize the harmful impact of such laws, most communities are slow to recognize the added burdens they place on people already struggling to overcome significant barriers. A single complaint can result in fines for homeless people even if they are causing no problems. When four police cars pulled up to an area under the Interstate 5 bridge in Sacramento,

or anywhere else unless you actually walked under the bridge."

Efforts to rid the streets of evidence of homelessness can increase during highly visible public events. At these times a city wants to look good by "sweeping" unpleasant aspects of the community out of sight. Police in many cities conduct sweeps in which they round up individuals on the street and take them to a specific location or simply dump the people far away from where they were picked up. By the time they make their way back, the event will be over.

The 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, is an example.

"What we have seen in Vancouver is an escalation in the criminalization of poverty and homelessness in the lead up to the Olympics," says Sean Condon, executive director of *Megaphone*. "Homeless advocates believe this is an attempt to sweep the poor away during the games. While that hasn't been fully actualized, it has led to displacement and further criminalization. The first wave started last winter when the police, taking advantage of transition in the mayor's chair, started handing out tickets to homeless and low-income people in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside – a poor neighborhood that is most well known for having an open drug market – for everything from jaywalking and riding a bicycle on the sidewalk. After a public outcry and the new mayor's own opposition, the police finally backed off. However, this past summer they started another crackdown in the neighborhood on the vendors who sell often found goods on the street. Homeless/low-income people are unable to pay the \$100-\$500 tickets that were handed to them."

A more benevolent label on another law recently enacted in British Columbia is the Assistance to Shelter Act, which authorizes police to "forcibly remove a homeless person and take them to a shelter when there is an extreme weather warning," Condon says. With approximately 3,000 homeless people in Vancouver and approximately 1,000 shelter beds, plus a few emergency shelters, there are more homeless people than available beds.

"Dubbed the Olympic Kidnapping Act by locals, (the law) is troubling," Condon says. "What the police, the shelter and the homeless person are supposed to do when all the shelters are full has not been answered. In fairness, the Vancouver police department has said they will not forcibly take a homeless person to a shelter and will only encourage them to go. But police departments in other

Using a toilet is a universal need. You might think a person could just use the facilities in a public place such as a library or subway or a shelter. But that ignores facts that only become obvious when you are living on the street. Many public places can be too far away to walk to – assuming you can walk - and are locked much of the day. Many shelters have restricted access; not anyone can just wander in when they want. And businesses rarely allow people who are not customers to use their facilities.

Calif., and cops started ticketing the people sheltering there, Paula Lomazzi, editor of *Homeward*, the local street paper, was nearby. Lomazzi also works with the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC).

"Safe Ground Sacramento was having a retreat about a couple blocks away when we received a call about this," Lomazzi says. "We all took a break from the meeting to support the group under the bridge, including two attorneys. It was raining. The group that was camping/living under the bridge had moved there because their regular place was flooded out by (a) high river. They had nowhere else to go. Police gave them all citations and told them they had to leave. ... We found out later that a lady that lives in the area had complained. This bridge underpass is not located near any residents or business. They were not visible from the street

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municipalities, including other Metro Vancouver cities, have not made the same guarantee.”

As recently as December 2009, the Supreme Court of British Columbia has ruled in favor of the rights of homeless people. The court refused to reverse a decision made in 2008 by

“What we have seen in Vancouver is an escalation in the criminalization of poverty and homelessness in the lead up to the Olympics. Homeless advocates believe this is an attempt to sweep the poor away during the games. While that hasn’t been fully actualized, it has led to displacement and further criminalization.”
- Sean Condon, Megaphone

Supreme Court Justice Carol Ross, which struck down by-laws in the city of Victoria prohibiting homeless people from camping in public parks. She wrote that the bylaws “violate ... the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in that they de-

prive homeless people of life, liberty and security of the person in a manner not in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.”

Housing is cheaper

There are no comprehensive studies proving that the criminalization approach to homelessness improves public safety. Advocates for the homeless, however, cite scientific research and anecdotal evidence to prove that addressing the root causes of homelessness – not the behaviors related to it – can have a positive long-term impact for the community as well as the individuals.

Homes Not Handcuffs cites a study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in which Seattle researchers concluded that it’s “cheaper to provide supportive housing to chronically homeless individuals with severe alcohol problems than to have them live on the streets.

“Researchers designed a study to evaluate the effect of a Housing First intervention for chronically homeless individuals with severe alcohol problems on the use and costs of services,” the report says. “According to the study, the median costs of Housing First participants before the study were \$4,066 per person per month. When participating in the Housing First program, median monthly costs decreased to \$1,492 per person per month, after six months and \$958 after 12 months.”

Some cities make an effort to balance the criminalization approach with efforts to assist individuals in connecting with service providers. The uneven application of harsh enforcement is illustrated in Colorado. Denver’s Road Home – a 10-year plan to end homelessness – includes criminalization ordinances, but the city “adopted a policy of training officers on how to do outreach to the homeless,” says Tim Covi, editor of the *Denver VOICE*.

Law enforcement is expected to direct people to assistance rather than issue tickets right away. While the homeless on the Downtown Business Improvement District say they have been treated with respect, others aren’t so fortunate.

“Particularly along the Platte River and Cherry Creek areas, where the homeless often sleep at night and by law are not permitted to sleep, the *Denver VOICE* has received accounts of people’s possessions being discarded after they were roused in the morning and told to leave the area,” Covi says. “We have been told by at least five homeless people that the police make regular stops early in the morning on the Platte River and tell people to

leave, and that if they’re found there again, they’ll be ticketed or arrested.”

Scarce financial resources and public sentiment means advocates for the homeless have the added responsibility of educating the public about the steps necessary to end homelessness. Most large cities have more homeless people than shelter beds and even fewer services to address the root causes of the problem – mental health issues, addiction, job training, high unemployment rates, hiring practices that bar individuals with criminal records. Success stories are hard to come by.

The “A Key Not a Card” campaign in Portland, Ore., allows outreach workers from five different service providers to offer people immediate housing, instead of just a business card.

“From the program’s inception in 2005 through spring 2009, 936 individuals in 451 households have been housed through the program, including 216 households placed directly from the street,” says the *Homes Not Handcuffs* report.

Another innovative and successful program cited by the report comes from Daytona Beach, Fla. In an effort to reduce the need for panhandling, a coalition of service providers, businesses and the city of Daytona Beach provides homeless people with jobs and housing. The Downtown Street Team program hires homeless people to clean up downtown Daytona Beach. Each is provided with shelter and then transitional housing. Some of the participants have secured other full-time jobs and housing as a result.

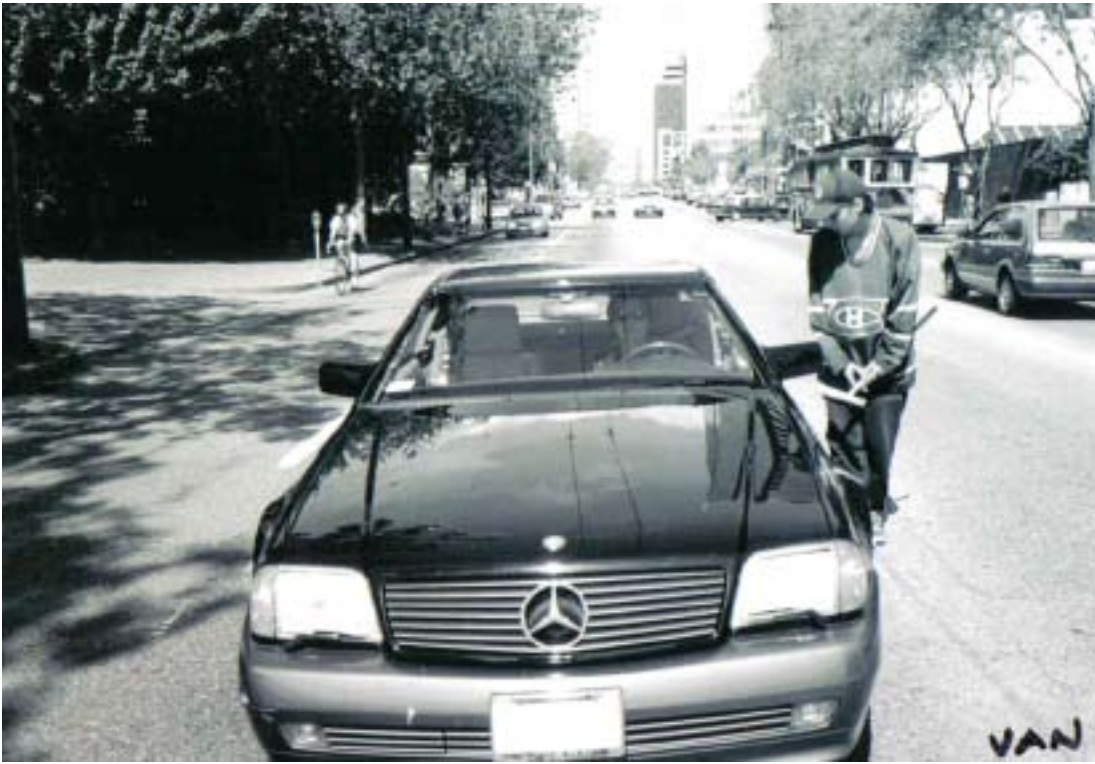
Make them wear signs

Unfortunately, failed programs tend to get the most attention.

“What happens when a city proposes some new initiative to solve the homeless problem – and this is in a negative way, to criminalize homelessness – it passes,” says Michael Stoops of the National Coalition for the Homeless. “The chamber of commerce, the police department, the business community will say that this new anti-panhandling program is working. And then other cities hear about it. Cities are actually very lazy. They will copy and pass this same, exact panhandling ordinance that was passed in Cincinnati.”

Indianapolis, Ind., and other municipalities are currently considering the ordinance Stoops refers to.

“In 2003 Cincinnati City Council passed an ordinance requiring panhandlers to obtain licenses from the health department,” says Gregory Flannery, editor of *Streetvibes*.



Trying to earn money with a squeegee in Denver. Photo by Rod Graham.

“Teachers, nurses, activists and others registered as panhandlers in an expression of solidarity. The Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless (parent organization of *Streetvibes*) filed a civil-rights lawsuit in federal court alleging the ordinance was a violation of the First Amendment, which guarantees the right to free speech. In settling the lawsuit, the city, the Homeless Coalition and Downtown Cincinnati Inc. (DCI) agreed to create an outreach position at DCI, whose job includes connecting panhandlers with social services.”

Politicians in Cincinnati, eager to appear tough on panhandlers, have sometimes tried to ignore the conditions of the settlement, however. Last summer City Councilman Jeff Berding proposed taxing panhandlers and making them wear signs stating how much the city spends to help homeless people. In response to these conditions and other outrageous claims made in the proposal, Berding bowed to community pressure and retracted the measure but only after a significant amount of grandstanding.

Advocates are working to change the views of lawmakers while simultaneously finding ways to get around the laws until they are removed.

In Sacramento it’s against the law to camp or use “camp paraphernalia” on any public property. Camping is allowed on private property with an owner’s permission as long as it’s not for more than 24 hours, according to Lomazzi.

One unintended consequence of the law is that people who own houses could receive citations for camping violations. If a family wants to have a two-day camp-out in their backyard, they can’t get a permit: The limit is one day. The likelihood of a neighbor calling the police isn’t great. But the net result is much more severe for homeless people. Even though Sacramento has more homeless people than shelter beds, people are not al-

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lowed to create their own shelter, denying them even minimal protection against the elements.

Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee is trying to adapt.

"We have started a new organization called Safe Ground Sacramento that is trying to establish legal places for people to stay until housing is available," Lomazzi says. "Campers stay together and sleep illegally most nights. A church has offered sanctuary to the group on freezing cold nights. Currently, the strategy is to go from one private property to the next ... in hopes of evading the anti-camping ordinance by taking advantage of the 24-hour private property loophole.

"We set up a Safe Ground community on private property near the central city with the owner's permission, and that lasted for about a month before the police came in and arrested everyone. The city threatened to fine the owner, so the group vacated the land."

Support from the community in the form of donations for sleeping cottages and pledges for future financial support is coming, but locations for the rotating sleeping locations are not yet being offered.

'Everyone has the right'

Although no data proves criminalization efforts deter crime or increase public safety, municipalities continue to pass punitive laws. Research by the National Coalition for the Homeless illustrates how expensive that approach can be:

* *Los Angeles*: \$6 million a year to pay for 50 extra police officers to crack down on crime in the Skid Row area while the city budgeted only \$5.7 million for homeless services.

* *Gainesville, Fla.*: As part of its 10-year plan to end homelessness, the city commission approved a plan to spend up to \$75,000 on a fence to keep people off "Tent City" property, and only \$20,000 to address the housing and service needs of those evicted.

* *Cincinnati, Ohio*: A 2007 study by the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless found that using the criminal justice system to deal with the consequences of street homelessness is an expensive approach, costing \$65 per bed per day in the jail, compared to \$30 a day for permanent supportive housing.

At a time when millions are being donated by private citizens and government to offer relief to 1.9 million Haitians left homeless by the recent earthquake, North Americans turn a blind eye to the policies that punish almost twice that many people in the same circumstance.

But change is possible.

"After two years of debate in front of the Commission of Human Rights of Québec, a victory has been achieved: On 9 Nov. 2009 the commission condemned strongly the city and the police regarding the social profiling of Montréal's homeless," says Serge Lareault, publisher of *L'itinéraire*. "The government of Québec engaged a new lawyer for homeless at the

beginning of December 2009. He is charged with the creation of a center for drunk homeless as an alternative to help them and not arresting them or giving tickets. But the fight continues. The police still arrest and give many tickets each day. Many people are asking for programs to help homelessness. Others are asking for an amnesty to the hundreds of homeless who have tickets."

Both Canada and the United States have signed and ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but both have failed to universally incorporate its principles into their laws. The non-binding United Nations (U.N.) declaration opens with a preamble recognizing "the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." In 1948 the U.N. General Assembly adopted this declaration as a "common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations."

The recognition that everyone – regardless of any distinction including an "other status," such as homelessness – is "born free and equal in dignity and rights" of life, liberty and security of person, is detailed in admonitions to prohibit slavery, torture, arbitrary arrest and a host of other behaviors that the United States and Canada routinely condemn as deplorable in other countries. The problem is that we refuse to do as we say.

Laws that criminalize homelessness routinely violate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Restricting the movement of people in specific locations violates article 13: "Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state." Confiscating and disposing of personal property because it happens to be on public land violates article 17: "Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of (his/her) property." Perhaps the most egregious violation of all is the blatant disregard for Article 25: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control."

Homelessness has become a crime, but homeless people are the victims, not the perpetrators. Laws that worsen their plight aggravate the offense. Just as mental illness, sexual abuse and addiction are conditions that call for helping victims – not prosecuting them – homelessness deserves a response rooted in compassion, fiscal sense and respect for international law. Helping homeless people is less expensive than jailing them. But more important, helping homeless people is the right thing to do. Jailing them for being homeless is wrong.

Leading Worship Lyrics

Young faith leader speaks openly about faith and music

By ADRIANA SHAHANDEH
Contributing Writer

Matt McCoy, a 24-year-old worship leader and graduate of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, started his worship career at the Vineyard Church in Tri-County. He now leads worship for more than 12,000 adults every weekend at the Harvest Bible Chapel in Chicago. He spoke with *Streetvibes* about his lyricism, his career and his faith.



Matt McCoy writes and performs music for worship.
Photo courtesy of Matt McCoy.

What's the most honest lyric you've ever written?

In "Will You Carry Me," it's really just me talking to God, saying, it's been too long since I've spoken with you. "Will you welcome me back home / I know it's time to lay down my pride / And give you the pieces that shattered inside my heart / I'm so tired of running, so Lord will You carry me?" That lyric just re-sounds to me because I feel like it's really personal and true.

Everyone has moments of doubt in their faith. What triggers those moments for you?

There are things you go through, where you ... lose a loved one or

family members get sick or ... maybe things don't go as you expected or hoped. It can just make you wonder, "God, where are you? Can you hear me? Do you even still see anymore? Am I on your mind?"

(Doubt) is always a seasonal thing (for me). It's never consistent. Maybe I'll have doubts for a little bit, but I always end up seeing the faithfulness of God come through. And maybe I was going through that storm, that rough patch, just so God can show me character. Maybe God was allowing me to go through that.

What triggers the moment when that doubt passes?

Honestly I think it just takes ... time. I think there's nothing wrong with asking questions. I don't think there's anything wrong with doubting, because it causes you to question: why do I believe what I believe? And what is it that I believe? So I think doubt can actually be healthy, because it makes you start really thinking. You start looking for answers. You end up rebuilding that foundation.

Do you have the same kind of ups and downs when it comes to having faith in your music?

Professionally? Yes, absolutely. I think one of the hardest things about being a musician is that you write these songs and you're emotionally connected to them, so it's hard to disconnect yourself from the song, and sometimes when you do, you start (doubting).

Was there a specific time in your life where you felt something didn't go as you had planned, instead unfolded into an even more positive experience and you felt it was a path orchestrated for you or that you were pushed toward?

Yes. There was a time I was applying to schools all over the place. I didn't know where I was going to go, and every time I got accepted into a school, I'd research the churches in that area, because I knew I wanted to be involved in the worship industry. In the end, I had my sights on (Indiana University). But, last minute, about a week before my graduation, there was an opening at the Vineyard Church. It's an amazing church – great heart. It was just so last minute. I applied for it, got the job and within a week or two I moved to Cincinnati.

What's the most surprising lyric you've ever written?

"I want to be consistently faithful and break away from temporary highs." And I think that surprised me because it showed that it's so easy to get on these temporary God highs. Maybe for a season, maybe for a week, maybe for a month you're all out for God. But then just maybe a month you start walking away again. I want to be consistent. I want to have a faithfulness that's consistent. When that lyric came out, it really showed me something about myself I tried to work on: Am I being consistent?

How do you want to be remembered?

As a person who passionately sought after God's heart and cared for others more than himself.

Metropole Tenants Confront HUD

Shaun Donovan leaves through the back door

By PAUL KOPP
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“I’m not going nowhere till the last minute,” Rob Porter said as he stood outside the offices of the *Cincinnati Herald* after attending a Feb. 18 press conference by U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Shaun Donovan.

Porter is a resident of the Metropole Apartments, a low-income housing site downtown. He went to the press conference to voice his disapproval of the relocation of Metropole residents.

Last year the Cincinnati Center City Development Corp. (3CDC) bought the building and plans to turn it into an upscale hotel. Under HUD regulations, residents have one year to move. The Metropole Tenants Association (MTA) has filed a fair-housing complaint with HUD, alleging the forced relocation constitutes discrimination. HUD has not yet ruled on the complaint.

‘Happy to sit down with you’

Donovan was in town to promote the results of President Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He used the Forest Square senior apartments in Avondale as an example of the law’s positive impact on communities and workers. The project, still underway, has created 70 construction jobs.

After introductions by State Sen. Eric Kearney (D-Cincinnati) and U.S. Rep. Steve Driehaus (D-Cincinnati), Donovan continued to discuss the accomplishments of the recovery act. So far 79,000 jobs have been saved in Ohio, he said. Donovan also discussed topics ranging from his hopes of creating a green economy to compete with China to his partnership with local senators to stop foreclosures on homes and the \$25 million in stimulus money that has been allocated to reverse the effect of foreclosures in Cincinnati. The money will also be used to help with neighborhood revitalization.

Robert Wavra, a member of the Metropole Tenants Association, confronted Donovan about HUD’s delay on the fair-housing complaint, which was initially filed four months ago.

“Why aren’t you protecting us?” Wavra said.

“We are reviewing that application as we speak and looking at the concerns you have raised,” Donovan said. “We haven’t made the decision yet, and that is why we haven’t gotten back to you. Let me be absolutely clear: Our number-one goal is to preserve affordable housing. We would be happy to sit down with you.”

Wavra asked why, if HUD hasn’t yet made a decision about the relocation plan for residents, 3CDC is pressuring Metropole residents to move. Donovan said HUD is still reviewing the plan and will continue to work with Metropole residents to pre-

serve affordable housing.

Josh Spring, executive director of the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless, told Donovan that the issue is not only about the loss of affordable housing but also the fair-housing complaint.

“Our local fair-housing officer tells us that, if Metropole tenants are removed from downtown – a district that has had a status of being diverse for 30-plus years – it could lose that diversity. It is a sense of cleansing the downtown,” Spring said. “It is about more than making sure the units are dispersed about. We want to keep fair housing.”

Donovan said HUD has strengthened enforcement of fair-housing laws with substantial funding from Congress. He said HUD has a range of ways in which to ensure fair housing. With those comments, he ended the press conference.

The mood afterward was tense.

“What he had to say to me was bullcrap,” Wavra said. “You (Donovan) had our complaint for four months but now you are going to look at it this morning because I asked you a question. That’s bullcrap.”

Donovan ducks out

Rickell Howard, the Legal Aid attorney representing the MTA, criticized 3CDC’s use of the Model Group to help convince residents to move.

“The reason we filed the complaint is because we know we are dealing with a private company, and the Fair Housing Act does apply to private entities,” she said. “All we want is to bring awareness to the issue and for Model Group not to be able to come in, because of their reputation and what they

are doing in other parts of the city, and disband this contract, which is going to make near zero amount of low-income housing in this area. It’s segregation downright, plain and simple.”

“We’re looking at it,” Donovan said.

Donovan answered some other brief questions and then was directed by his aides to a photo shoot in the *Herald* offices. Though he had expressed an interest in meeting with MTA representatives, a time wasn’t set. MTA members, Howard, Spring and Rob Goeller – civil-rights outreach coordinator for the Homeless Coalition – waited outside in hopes of setting up a time to meet with Donovan. But Donovan’s aides said he was busy, and though he might not be able to meet with them, he was aware of the Metropole situation and is talking with local HUD officials about it.

As Spring walked around the building, trying to locate another exit that Donovan might use, Donovan went out through a back door.

“Do you have five minutes to talk to tenants?” Spring said. “There are three tenants right out front. We could also talk later on today or anytime.”

“I have two meetings, and then I’m headed to the airport,” Donovan said.

“It doesn’t look good when you won’t talk to tenants,” Spring said.

Donovan and his aides apologized, gave Spring the secretary’s card and left.

Earlier, while the group was waiting for Donovan, they spoke to Driehaus. Spring and others asked if he could provide any information about a meeting with Donovan.

“He is talking to James (Cunningham, local HUD field director) locally,” Driehaus said. “He’s talking to a bunch of folks. This guy’s schedule is packed. He is not ignoring it. You heard what he said about big picture. From the big-picture perspective, he obviously has his time and his heart in the right place, in terms of preserving affordable housing. He gets it. He is aware of it. I trust him. He’s not just a faceless bureaucrat.”



Shaun Donovan, secretary of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“Feed Me, Seymour / Feed Me All Night Long ...”



Photo by Jeni Jenkins.

By JENI JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

This is one of my recent food experiments, an attempt at cultivating my tumultuous love affair with Indian cuisine. In 2003 I attended a research conference in Los Angeles with a cohort of my colleagues. The first evening of our stay, members of my group decided we should eat at this little Indian restaurant near the beach in Santa Monica. I was cautious, as I had never eaten Indian food, and I sheepishly believed there

couldn't be a single item on the menu that I would enjoy.

I couldn't have been more wrong. I instantly fell in love with the rich spicy flavors and delectable aromas Indian food offers. Since that time I have invested a bit of time in re-creating Indian dishes at home, some with tremendous success. Others were tossed into the trash with utter disappointment.

This dish combines my love for veggies and creamy sauce with my exploration with the South American grain, quinoa (pronounced “keen-wah”). As a vegetarian, I am

constantly looking for food with high protein content. Quinoa is one of the most complete proteins and is superior to most other common grains. Quinoa is an excellent source of calcium and iron and contains a near-perfect balance of all eight essential amino acids required for human survival. Additionally, it is gluten-free. The texture is not grainy, and eating quinoa is like eating tiny little beads that pop a little in your mouth as you chew. Here is my first of many experiments with this grain. I hope you'll enjoy as much as I did.

Veggie Curry with Red Quinoa

1 cup red quinoa (and a rice cooker)
2 cups water
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 white or yellow onions, chopped
4 cloves garlic, minced
16 oz. bag frozen cauliflower/broccoli mix, defrosted
2 cups fresh spinach, chopped
3 tablespoons curry powder or paste
2 cups vegetable broth
14 oz can coconut milk

1. Prepare the quinoa, either as directed on the package or by putting 1 cup quinoa and 2 cups water in a rice cooker for 45 minutes.
2. While the quinoa is cooking, heat 2 tablespoons oil in a skillet over medium-low heat. Sauté the onion and garlic 3-4 minutes until the onions turn translucent.
3. Turn the heat up slightly to medium high and add the defrosted cauliflower/broccoli mix. Cook approximately 3 minutes.
4. Gently stir in the chopped spinach and cook until wilted.
5. In a bowl, mix the vegetable broth with the curry powder. Pour mixture over the veggies and simmer to a low boil.
6. Stir in the coconut milk, cover and cook on medium for 5 minutes.
7. Serve the curried vegetables over the hot quinoa.
8. Voila, FEED!

Serving size: 3-4 bellies.

Cleo's Joke Corner



If you carrot for me, my heart beets for you
with your turnip nose and your radish hair.
Your chin is a peach. If we cantaloupe,
lettuce marry and become a pear.

Artwork By Anthony Williams



Say What?!

“In thinking of the mechanisms of power, I am thinking of its capillary form of existence, the point where power reaches into the very grain of individuals, touches their bodies and inserts itself into their actions and attitudes, their discourses, learning processes and everyday lives.”

- Michel Foucault, *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be lured or pressured into military service for which they are not yet prepared, she says. Many students are given a fantasy portrayal of the military, with promises that they can avoid deployment or that they will be able to go to college without cost.

“There have been documented cases of recruiters saying ‘Things are safer in the streets of Baghdad than downtown Cincinnati’ or ‘You’ll never go to Iraq,’ things about what types of benefits they would be able to receive or telling them they have full control of where they would be placed, or what type of job they would have, which is absolutely untrue,” Barker says.

Each school's guidelines are subject to change as school administrations change. "Principals establish informal guidelines," Barker says. "They aren't written down or codified in any school policy. They are not available when you call to ask what they are." Other districts have established policies that help protect students, including limiting military recruiters to the same areas allotted to college recruiters. School districts in Toledo, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis, Seattle and dozens of other cities have implemented district-wide policies to protect students from recruiting abuses, and some states have legislation requiring statewide policies.

Cincinnati Public Schools has no policy on military recruitment. No guidelines exist to ensure that students are given equal exposure to post-graduation options and protected from recruiter abuses. IJPC is concerned about the extent of recruiters' access to students, misinformation by recruiters and the lack of balanced information for students. The organization wants a district policy to ensure that students and parents are fully informed of their right not to have contact information released to recruiters, limit recruiters' access to schools and promote an environment that allows students to make informed decisions.

"We are really hoping that Cincinnati Public Schools takes a systematic approach to recruiting and follow the lead of dozens of districts in establishing a policy to protect student rights, end the preferential treatment military recruiters receive and eliminate recruiter abuses," Barker says. "The important thing right now is to gather support."



Demonstrators stand with mock coffins outside U.S. military recruiting station in New York City. *REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton.*

Draft Resolution to Eliminate Recruiter Abuses in Cincinnati Public Schools:

All Recruiters (college, employment or military) shall be subject to these procedures:

1. Recruiters must register with the school office and wear a visitor's pass.
2. All recruiters must sign a code of conduct before visiting campus.
3. CPS school board and Cincinnati Federation of Teachers will establish procedures to document and resolve violations by recruiters of CPS policy.
4. Except for career and college fairs, recruiters shall have access only to interested juniors and seniors in designated areas of the school.
5. CPS employees shall not engage in recruitment activities on behalf of an outside entity.
6. Materials on making informed military enlistment and employment and educational opportunities shall be available wherever U.S. Armed Forces material is located.
7. Schools should refer to the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (ASVAB) by its full name if the test is administered, and ensure test scores are kept confidential by choosing "Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (ASVAB) Option 8."
8. CPS shall educate students and parents/guardians on opt-out policies and other policies regarding recruitment.
9. Equal access shall be granted by CPS to advocates for alternatives to military service.

To help IJPC's effort, call 513-579-8547. To sign a petition asking Cincinnati Public Schools to adopt a district-wide policy on military recruitment, visit http://www.change.org/ijpc-cincinnati/actions/view/stop_military_recruiter_abuses_in_cincinnati_public_schools.

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Count-Time

By Sonny Williams

9 p.m. and the lights go out.
London Prison Farm gets quiet.
Headphones go on convicts' ears.
The guards symbolize the prison injustice and the pain
Of not seeing a lover, mother or son.
Ahmed Evans rings in the
Minds of the men's dreams
Of freedom and human respect.
Ahmed Evans, Ashby Leach, all
Political prisoners, all fighters
For all prisoners and justice.
End prison construction!

The Touch of a Word

By Alexis Victor

the face
worn by the cold, wrinkled with regret
the smile faded, eyes blank.
Lost.
yearning for the warmth of a connection
eyes meet, a smile, nod of the head.
worth more than the filthy bill too precious
to spare for someone in need
an exchange of words can touch the soul,
spark a light in the eyes
alleviate the wrinkled problems on the face
fill the mind, body and soul with purpose for change.

Lessons

By George Herrell

As a child we dreamt of growing up
And then of growing old
Of all that which was in between,
“Ignore it!” we were told
And now that lost experience
Is like so much buried gold
Childhoods crushed!
Futures sold!
God
When the skyscrapers are skeletons
And the nights never end
And our minds bear the crosses
Of all that might have been
When we hear our children laughing
Ignorant of sin
Will we win?
Or just start again?

The Unknown and the Unnamed

By Kate Taylor

The folds of thin, fraying fabric
Form a crumbling resistance
Against the tormenting
Frost-bitten air

A candle burns at the end of a dark street
Sputtering light and warmth until
The invisible thief snatches
It away

Pleas for help take the shape
Of cardboard signs
Silently crying out
To passersby

Individuals are built
On hard, unforgiving concrete
Stories without readers burn
To ashes in graveside flames

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Myth-Buster: Affordable Housing and Property Values

Research finds no negative impact

By MICHELLE DILLINGHAM
Contributing Writer

Who knew the world of property-value appraisal was so elusive, so complicated? After researching the topic – essentially a “real estate appraisal for dummies” Internet search – I am now more mystified than ever. But there is good news, and it doesn’t require understanding the complexities of property valuation. The good news is that researchers have determined that the presence of affordable housing does not negatively impact property values. Dispelling this myth is important because communities have used this unfounded fear as a rationale to reject proposals for subsidized housing projects.

Property values 101

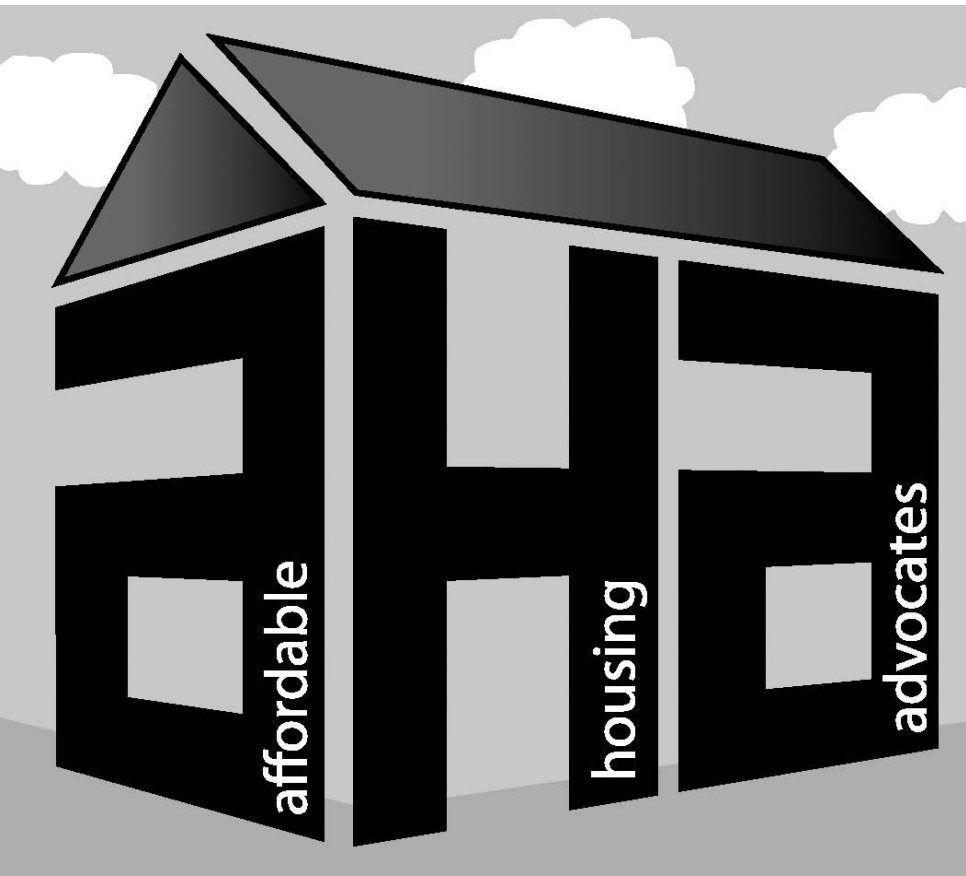
The three major causes of a decline in property values are the removal of improvements from a property; a calamity or disaster, such as a fire or flood; and a decline in the real-estate market due to neighborhood changes, departure of a major industry and the economy in general. I spoke to a real-estate appraiser about the factors that go into valuing a property. He said having a gas station or factory adjacent to a property can negatively influence its value. Even in this case, however, if the neighborhood suddenly becomes popular to young homeowners, property values can still increase. He told me an appraiser is not allowed to cite the presence of subsidized housing as an explanation for a decrease in property value.

The main factor that appraisers consider is the sales or foreclosures in the neighboring properties. The appraiser I spoke to assured me that the fear that property values will decrease due to adjacent subsidized housing is unfounded. He did note that, if properties are not well managed and litter and blight proliferates, this can cause adjacent homeowners to sell, thereby causing a decrease in property values.

Property taxes are calculated using the assessed property values and millage rates. Therefore, property values determine how much property tax local government can collect. Our own city budget relies heavily on property taxes. Having robust property values generates more property taxes, which go to fund more city services. Clearly, no one wants to see property values decline, but let us not place blame on affordable housing.

The surprising truth

Sometimes communities will mobilize to fend off subsidized development by citing fears their property values will decrease. Tufts University Professor Rachel G. Bratt has reviewed a number of research reports that measured the effect of affordable housing on property values. She found evidence that development of affordable housing



by a community development corporation (CDC) actually caused an increase in property values.

“In one recent econometric analysis of the impacts of CDC development work on property values, it was found that these groups have been able to spark a chain reaction of investment that leads to dramatic improvements to neighborhoods.”
- Rachel G. Bratt

“In one recent econometric analysis of the impacts of CDC development work on property values, it was found that these groups have been able to spark a chain reaction of investment that leads to dramatic improvements to neighborhoods,” Bratt wrote.

Bratt cited a 2005 study by the Urban Institute showing

that “CDC investments in affordable housing and commercial retail facilities have led to increases in property values ... that are sometimes as great as 69 percent higher than they would have been in the absence of the investment.”

Bratt also cited a study by the MIT Center for Real Estate. “Another rigorous research study conducted in Massachusetts concluded that the ‘introduction of large-scale high density mixed income rental developments in single-family neighborhoods does not affect the value of surrounding homes,’ ” Bratt wrote.

Her conclusion is that, if housing is well designed and managed, “there are no negative impacts of affordable housing on the property values of neighboring single-family homes.”

The next time someone uses property values as an excuse to block a building for senior citizens subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s 211 fund, I will be sure to let them know their claims are based in fear, not fact.



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Paul Brown's Biggest Fumble

Even the legendary coach had his flaws

By B. CLIFTON BURKE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the state of Ohio there is a football legend that compares to no other; he is Paul Brown, and he is rightfully revered by those who are familiar with his career.

The man revolutionized the game in countless ways, ranging from a complex passing attack to the face mask on helmets. He coached his way to an Ohio state championship at Massillon High, an NCAA championship at Ohio State and both an AAFL and an NFL championship with the Cleveland Browns – a team named after him.

He founded the Bengals in 1968, taking over as team president, general manager and head coach. Yet despite all of his glory, Brown made two critical mistakes while in Cincinnati. One is turning over the team to his son, who now acts as team president, general manager and local villain. The lesser known oversight, however, took

place in 1976, when Brown refused to promote a bright offensive assistant coach who many suspected was being groomed to take over for Brown once he stepped down as head coach. That man is Bill Walsh, whose team went on to beat the Bengals in the Super Bowl – twice.

The man revolutionized the game in countless ways, ranging from a complex passing attack to the face mask on helmets. He coached his way to an Ohio state championship at Massillon High, an NCAA championship at Ohio State and both an AAFL and an NFL championship with the Cleveland Browns – a team named after him.

The facts are that Walsh was hired by the expansion Bengals in 1968 as a receivers coach but quickly became what would later be called an offensive coordinator. He created an offense of short-yardage passing plays that accommodated the weak arm of backup quarterback Virgil Carter once the promising starter, Greg Cook, went down with a shoulder injury. Walsh led a proficient offense in Cincinnati

for eight years, and the speculation began that he would become the next head coach of the Bengals. Instead, Brown hired someone named Bill “Tiger” Johnson, and Walsh left Cincinnati for other opportunities.

After coaching at Stanford for two seasons, Walsh became the head coach of the San Francisco 49ers in 1979, going on to win three Super Bowls in 10 seasons. He is nicknamed the “Genius,” and the same offense he devised in Cincinnati has since been dubbed the West Coast Offense and is now used in some variation by nearly every NFL team.

The twist to the story, though, is that Walsh says that, when he was passed over for the head coaching job and decided to leave, Brown actively tried to sabotage his career. The Bengals offered Walsh an expanded role and more money but not the top job; and when Walsh refused, Brown saw it as an act of betrayal. Brown recommended other teams ignore the future “genius,” calling him too soft to be a head coach or

even an offensive coordinator for another team. Former Bengals receiver Isaac Curtis, however, said that Brown once told him that he promised the head coaching job to Bill Johnson eight years earlier, but Bill Walsh said that Brown also promised him the same thing many times.

The irony to it all is that Paul Brown, with his speedy players and their fancy passing, was once considered a less than rugged coach, too. The great innovator couldn't see enough of himself in Walsh to make him head coach for the same false drawbacks that were labeled on him. Or was it that Brown saw plenty of himself in Bill Walsh, and wasn't prepared to be replaced by someone as great as he was?

Who knows? Sadly, both men have since passed on, and the repercussions of the decisions made by the Bengals in 1976 are well documented. A Bengals fan can't help but wonder what would have happened if Walsh had stayed? How many Super Bowls would Cincinnati have won in the '80s? Maybe still zero, but I would have liked to see it anyway.

Ask a Vendor

Dear Grady,

You have been coming faithfully one Sunday each month to sell the *Streetvibes* newspapers at Bellarmine Chapel. You feel like a friend! I would like to know how you get to Bellarmine each month. And I would like to know what your days are like.

Thank you, Grady!

Sincerely,
Nancy



Dear Nancy,

I've got my own transportation. But at one time, when I first started going to Bellarmine, Earline Moreland and I used to catch the bus up to Reading Road from downtown, where we stayed, and then walk to church. After Mass, different church members would give us a ride. Up until a year ago I accumulated enough money where I could get my own transportation.

I really appreciate the fact that the money I earn helps me pay my rent. They've also helped me get in touch with other agencies, such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

I'd like to send a special thanks to the families that helped me and some other people during the holidays. I didn't get a chance to thank them in person.

Lately I've been taking it day by day because I've been unemployed except for selling *Streetvibes* and doing a few odd jobs. If any other readers have small jobs, I'm definitely looking for work.

Grady Cook

Go Ahead: Ask a Vendor

Invitation to a dialogue with our readers

Streetvibes vendors see a lot that you might not. For example, some can describe what goes on in an abandoned building at night when they sleep there.

Have you ever wondered what it's like to stand on a street corner selling newspapers? That's hardly a common occupation anymore.

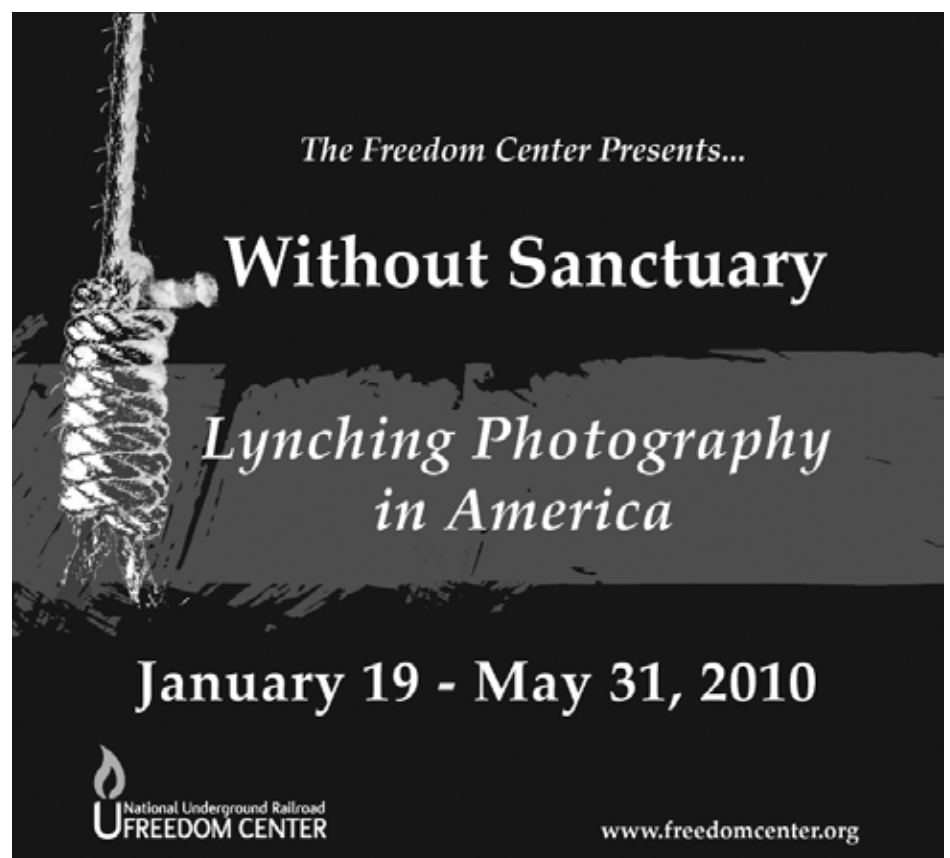
How much money do *Streetvibes* vendors make – and what do they do with it? Do they have other jobs?

If you have questions, some of our vendors would like to answer them. “Go Ahead: Ask a Vendor” will be an occasional feature, with questions submitted by readers and answered by *Streetvibes* vendors.

You may direct your question to a specific vendor or we'll invite one to respond. Only include your name if you want to.

Send questions to streetvibes2@yahoo.com
Or to *Streetvibes*, 117 E. 12th St. Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

Go ahead. Ask.



Thank you to our sponsors:



‘Do it Yourself’ Appeals

New handbook tells how
to do it in Columbus

By ANNE SKOVE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We will not repeat the old saw that “he who represents himself has a fool for a lawyer,” if only because the saying would be lost in the tide of self-represented (or *pro se*) litigants.

The number of appeals filed *pro se* in Ohio has increased to over 40 percent. Lawyers cost money – something people have less and less of lately. The poor economy plus a distrust of the legal system, the rise of DIY culture, and (contrary to what Dan Quayle told us back in the day) lack of affordable attorneys creates the perfect storm for the trend.

In the mid-1990s the Legal Services Corp. (LSC) experienced critical budget cuts by the Republican Congress. It responded by promoting *pro se* assistance with what little money it had left. This approach was less controversial – the LSC was under political attack for “defending drug dealers,” even though grantee

organizations generally did not take criminal cases – and seemed necessary, given the growing number of unrepresented parties.

The courts themselves stepped up to the challenges faced by unrepresented parties. One recent example is the Supreme Court of Ohio’s new publication, *Filing an Appeal in the Supreme Court of Ohio: A Pro Se Guide*. At 84 pages, this manual is no light read. It’s not easy to learn the legal system on your own. But the government trusts us to do our own taxes, fill out our own child-support worksheets, report our own income (both legal and illegal), buy car insurance and elect candidates, so perhaps we can be trusted to file appeals with the state supreme court as well.

The book’s length is due in part to the large amount of graphics. Not content with simply providing written directions for how to draft a notice of appeal, for example, the book provides a sample cover sheet identifying all the

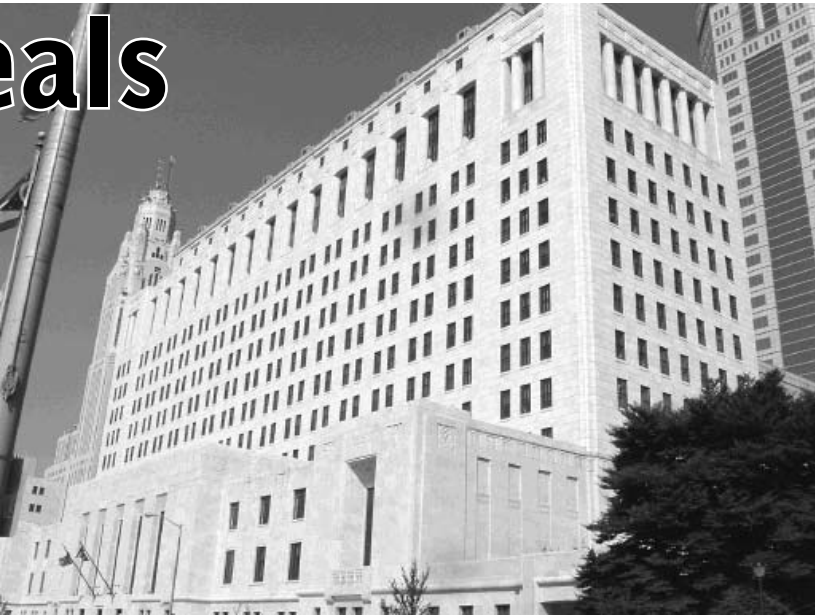
requisite parts – case name, title, addresses, etc. Other necessary documents are similarly presented. This fool, who found legal procedure courses a bit like learning how to drive by reading a book, appreciates the descriptive pictures.

Yale law professor Fred Rodell once said, “There are two things wrong with all legal writing. One is its style. The other is its content.”

The manual strikes a balance between avoiding legalese whenever possible, while managing to include the “real” terms. Here is the “perfect” example:

“The Rules of Practice of the Supreme Court of Ohio refer to the act of properly filing an appeal as ‘perfecting’ the appeal. For purposes of simplicity, this guide substitutes the word ‘file’ for the legal term ‘perfect.’”

Enlarged text boxes provide definitions, pronunciation and other important notes. Easy-to-read timelines with crucial deadlines – missing one is the legal equivalent to falling down in



The Ohio Supreme Court building in Columbus, Ohio.

Twister – maps and driving directions to the state supreme court, court holidays and an overview of the state courts complete the package. Even represented parties and new lawyers might find the manual helpful for its general information.

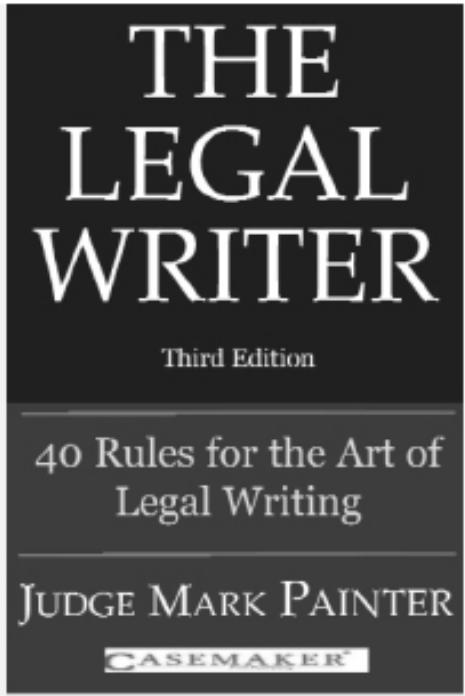
Court staff, too, will find this manual to be a blessing. A handy checklist outlines what they can and cannot do for the self-represented. For a long time, court staff members around the country were instructed, “Do not provide legal advice,” and courthouse signage echoed the sentiment. Unfortunately, it can be tricky to tell what “no le-

gal advice” means. The state supreme court recently held a course on this very topic for staff. The checklist could be the cheat sheet for such a course.

Is this book a good substitute for a lawyer? In the introduction, the authors play CYA with this warning: “You are strongly advised, however, to hire an attorney to represent you through the appeals process.” Appendix A is a fine resource on locating legal help in Ohio. Read the manual even if you do have a lawyer; it will help you understand what’s going on.

David Giacalone contributed to this article.

The Guide is available online at http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/PIO/news/2010/proSeGuide_020410.asp, another nice user-friendly touch.



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Football on a Rollercoaster

To the Editor:

My school was recently visited by a member of the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless, and shortly thereafter I was given a copy of *Streetvibes* to read. While thumbing through its pages, I happened upon an article concerning the Cincinnati Bengals and the emotional rollercoaster the team (and doubtlessly the city as well) had been riding throughout the season (“The Unexpected Might Be the Bengals’ Best Weapon,” issue of Jan. 1-14).

My own feeling for the Bengals have fluctuated madly this whole year. For as long as I have lived here, the Bengals have been dismal. So when they lost the season opener on a fluke play, I felt familiar feelings of anguish, anger and resigned frustration. Another year we would be laughed at. But then we steadily rose and won and won again. Around mid-season, I would say I share many of the sentiments that the author of the article has. When the Bengals were riding high, I had misguided notions of the Super Bowl, a bright shiny trophy and bragging rights for the year to come.

Slowly, however, those visions faded away. Oakland, Minnesota, San Diego, New York. Each week I watched the Bengals implode, and every week I lost a little faith. When Chris Henry went down with an injury, I knew it spelled trouble. When he died, I felt the wheels about to come off. I can’t imagine the pain of Henry’s teammates, family, friends. It seems, however, that his death started the final unraveling of that football team, and that unraveling was felt by everyone in the city. The joy of the division sweep, the anxiety of a mid-season slump, and the horrible, biting feeling of another playoff defeat. Nobody even knows what to say anymore.

Beyond all else, I’d like to thank the author for writing about the Bengals in a very emotional and provocative way, I truly enjoyed it.

Mac McKee
Cincinnati

Eyes now Open

To the Editor:

I would just like to take the time to thank you for the work you are doing. My school was recently visited by a member of the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless and I must say that that presentation, in addition to your paper, have really opened my eyes to the true nature of poverty. I now realize what I didn’t only a few short weeks ago, that homeless people can come from anywhere. My mental image of the homeless has changed irreversibly from this experience, and I hope to change those of the people around me as well.

Sincerely,
Michael Fitzgerald
Cincinnati

Start with Compassion

To the Editor:

On Wednesday, Jan. 27, the Upper School of Cincinnati Country Day School gathered to learn about homelessness. Grades 9-12 watched the movie *The Soloist*, starring Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey Jr., which depicts how a talented musician ends up on the streets due to mental illness. The film awakened us to the plight of homelessness, which can strike anyone.

Immediately following the film, we heard two speakers from the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless, who had both previously been homeless. The goal of the presentation was to erase stereotypes and enlighten students on ways to contribute to the fight against homelessness.

The most important lesson learned that day was compassion. Each person who lives on the streets has their own story and is a human being worthy of empathy and aid. I left the presentation wishing to give hope to those out there on the streets battling the cold and hunger. Hundreds of young adults had taken time out of their day to learn about the lives of those down on their luck, and we cared. We cared about the individuals that are seen as less than human because they don’t have the privilege of a daily shower; we cared about those who feel degradation from their fellow Americans. We cared and we will continue to care.

If the message that hundreds of thousands of people worry and feel for those who suffer on the streets reaches the ears of the afflicted individuals, it might bring a moment of joy to those who need it the most. If I can put a smile on the frown-lined face of a homeless person, the first step towards raising them up to success has been accomplished.

Lindsay Dougan
Cincinnati

Broken Stereotypes

To the editor:

I am a junior at Cincinnati Country Day School who was recently introduced to your newspaper through a guest speaker at my school. I was impressed with the quality of your publication and the work you are doing to raise awareness about the homeless community. I was particularly touched by the article “May They Finally Rest in Peace” (issue of Jan. 1). I think it is important to remember those who have died, and your article was a nice tribute to these people. I feel as though it broke the stereotype that homeless people have nobody who cares about them. I look forward to reading future issues of your paper and hope that you continue the work you are doing to help the homeless.

Jordan Komnick
Cincinnati

Sweating the Aluminum

To the Editor:

I want some feedback from consumers concerning cosmetic-additive anti-perspirants. The market is dominated by aluminum anti-perspirants. Aluminum is a harsh metal that can cause cancer. Doctors believe but haven’t presented scientific facts that aluminum contained in hygiene products has no impact on human bodies.

Competition is good for consumers. Having alternatives to aluminum anti-perspirants can lower prices. Personally, as a consumer, I am tired of using aluminum cosmetic additives and want a change.

I want to present a new formula using fortified iron as metal base. The formula hasn’t been developed but a laboratory in South Carolina can complete that task. The problem is formula-development financing. Investors’ financial assistance will be appreciated if elimination of aluminum antiperspirants is desired. My fortified iron antiperspirant should be made available to consumers on mass market.

Derrick Prophet
busmen4life@aol.com

Pure Hip Hop

To the Editor:

I really enjoyed reading the article “New Voices of the Voiceless” by Ariana Shahandeh (issue of Jan. 1-15). I found it very moving and inspiring. Although I don’t know much about Hip Hop or the music industry in general, I found that I didn’t really need to when reading this piece. I really connected with what the author was saying.

After reading the comments about famous artists like Jay Z and Drake, it made me want to go back and listen to those songs to see what the artists are really saying in them. I found myself thinking about how, after an artist becomes famous, they don’t have many other meaningful experiences to draw from like rappers such as Jasiri X and Amar do. It is much more meaningful to hear a song that is about the truth, rather than a song about parties and money. Especially since the economy is in such a bad place and since so many people are suffering, it is not nearly as appealing to listen to a rap about wealth and money – people want to hear the truth. Like the rapper Common said, Hip Hop is best when it is pure, when it isn’t drowned in drugs and money.

Spokespeople from Streetvibes actually just came and talked to my school, Cincinnati Country Day School, and with what they had just said fresh in my mind, this article really made me want to hear more songs by people like Jasiri X and Amar. Again, this article was very touching and I loved reading it. Keep it up.

Caroline Perrin
Cincinnati



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Have something on your mind?
Do you agree or disagree
with an article?

Let us know:

117 E. 12th Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

streetvibes2@yahoo.com

Need Help or Want to Help?

Shelter: Women and Children

Central Access Point	381-SAFE
Cincinnati Union Bethel	768-6907
300 Lytle Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Bethany House	557-2873
1841 Fairmount Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45214	
Grace Place Catholic Worker House	681-2365
6037 Cary Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45224	
Salvation Army	762-5660
131 E. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
YWCA Battered Women’s Shelter	872-9259

Shelter: Men

City Gospel Mission	241-5525
1419 Elm Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Justice Watch	241-0490
St. Fran/St. Joe Catholic Work. House	381-4941
1437 Walnut Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Mt. Airy Shelter	661-4620

Shelter: Both

Anthony House (Youth)	961-4080
2728 Glendora Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45209	
Caracole (HIV/AIDS)	761-1480
1821 Summit Road, Cinti, Ohio 45237	
Drop Inn Center	721-0643
217 W. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Interfaith Hospitality Network	471-1100
Lighthouse Youth Center (Youth)	221-3350
3330 Jefferson, Cinti, Ohio 45220	

Housing:

CMHA	721-4580
Excel Development	632-7149
OTR Community Housing	381-1171
114 W. 14th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Tender Mercies	721-8666
27 W. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Tom Geiger House	961-4555
Dana Transitional Bridge Services	751-0643
Volunteers of America	381-1954

Food/Clothing

Lord’s Pantry	621-5300
OTR/Walnut Hills Kitchen & Pantry	961-1983
OTR: 1620 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Walnut Hills: 2631 Gilbert, Cinti, Ohio 45206	
Our Daily Bread	621-6364
1730 Race Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
St. Francis Soup Kitchen	535-2719

Churches Active in Northside	591-2246
4230 Hamilton Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45223	
FreeStore/FoodBank	241-1064
112 E. Liberty Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Madisonville Ed & Assistance Center	271-5501
4600 Erie Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45227	
Serves area codes: 45226, 45227, 45208, 45209	
St. Vincent de Paul	562-8841
1125 Bank Street, Cinti, Ohio 45214	

Treatment: Men

Charlie’s 3/4 House	784-1853
2121 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
DIC Live In Program	721-0643
Prospect House	921-1613
682 Hawthorne Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45205	
Starting Over	961-2256

Treatment: Women

First Step Home	961-4663
2203 Fulton, Cinti, Ohio 45206	

Treatment: Both

AA Hotline	351-0422
CCAT	381-6672
830 Ezzard Charles Dr. Cinti, Ohio 45214	
Joseph House (Veterans)	241-2965
1522 Republic Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Hamilton County ADAS Board	946-4888
Recovery Health Access Center	281-7422
Sober Living	681-0324
Talbert House	641-4300

Advocacy

Catholic Social Action	421-3131
Community Action Agency	569-1840
Contact Center	381-4242
1227 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Franciscan JPIC	721-4700
Gr. Cinti Coalition for the Homeless	421-7803
117 E. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Intercommunity Justice & Peace Cr.	579-8547
Legal Aid Society	241-9400
Ohio Justice & Policy Center	421-1108
Faces Without Places	363-3300
Stop AIDS	421-2437

Health

Center for Respite Care	621-1868
3550 Washington Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45229	

Crossroad Health Center	381-2247
5 E. Liberty St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Health Resource Center	357-4602
Homeless Mobile Health Van	352-2902
McMicken Dental Clinic	352-6363
40 E. McMicken Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Mental Health Access Point	558-8888
Mercy Franciscan at St. John	981-5800
1800 Logan St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
NAMI of Hamilton County	458-6670
PATH Outreach	977-4489

Other Resources

Center Independent Living Options	241-2600
Emmanuel Community Center	241-2563
1308 Race St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Peaslee Neighborhood Center	621-5514
214 E. 14th St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Franciscan Haircuts from the Heart	381-0111
1800 Logan St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Goodwill industries	771-4800
Healing Connections	751-0600
Mary Magdalen House	721-4811
1223 Main St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
People Working Cooperatively	351-7921
The Caring Place	631-1114
United Way	211
Women Helping Women	977-5541

Hamilton/Middletown

St. Raephaels	863-3184
Salvation Army	863-1445
Serenity House Day Center	422-8555
Open Door Pantry	868-3276

Northern Kentucky

Brighton Center	859-491-8303
799 Ann St. Newport, KY	
ECHO/Hosea House	859-261-5857
Fairhaven Resuce Mission	859-491-1027
Homeward Bound Youth	859-581-1111
Mathews House	859-261-8009
Homeless & Housing Coalition	859-727-0926
Parish Kitchen	859-581-7745
Pike St. Clinic	859-291-9321
Transitions, Inc	859-491-4435
Welcome House of NKY	859-431-8717
205 West Pike Street, Covington, KY 41011	
Women’s Crisis Center	859-491-3335
VA Domiciliary	859-559-5011
VA Homeless	859-572-6226

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Ascending to the Pure Realms

Gloria McConnaghy's creations celebrate spirituality

“Why don't you draw pictures about something from your heart, something you dream of, good things you remember?” That was the advice a junior high school art teacher gave Gloria McConnaghy when she was a pre-adolescent girl. It was an advice she would never forget and that shaped from then on all her artistic expression.

Gloria, born in California, grew up in British Columbia and later located in Cincinnati. As a young child, she liked drawing, enrolled in scholastic art programs and won several awards. When ready to choose a career, a well-meaning adviser dissuaded her from going to art school and directed her instead toward nursing. She attended a small Jewish nursing school in San Francisco and mingled with students from all ethnic backgrounds, African-American, Jewish, Japanese, Chinese, Haitian.

“This was the best thing that ever happened to me,” she says, “It woke me up to social reality and forged my tolerance by experience.”

Gloria loved nursing and taking care of patients who opened her eyes to the world and its diversity. While working as a nurse, she took art classes at night, mostly drawing and painting. The paintings she did then were popular and sold well; she felt, however, they had nothing to do with her.

Frustrated, she decided to stop painting until she had something to say. Interested in public health, she joined the Cincinnati Health Department, then the Peace Corps and Save the Children, which took her for many years to Colombia, Fiji, Tuvalu and Bhutan. Not mastering the languages of these countries, she resorted to her drawing skills

to generate public-health teaching documents based on images she would create. Their topics varied from prevention of malaria, maternal and child health care, family planning, clean water and sanitation to a complete primary health care manual for Bhutan. The documents served as visual aids well suited to

citizens of these countries who could not read well. They tied her art interest to her public-health concerns.

When, after many years of overseas commitment, she decided to settle back home, Gloria was well in her 50s, out of synch with the nursing field and not easily marketable. To earn a living, she started an ethnic jewelry and folk-art shop in downtown Cincinnati and got



Gloria McConnaghy. Photo by Bill Howes.

back, seriously this time, into her own creative art. Inspired by her experiences abroad and the spirituality of the places she had lived in or visited, she started doing small construction pieces, shrines or altar-like, some with strong religious connotations, each with a personal story. They connected her to her dreams, to the mystical images she had in her mind, to her beliefs, to the people she had met, and to the important individuals who had influenced her views of the world. Gandhi, the Dalai Lama and Mother Teresa, for instance, often appeared in her works, reflecting on the values of peace, non-violence, love and compassion they promoted and imparted onto her.

Corona Awaiting Her Ascent into Heaven is a small construction piece Gloria did in honor of a small and frail black lady she encountered one day on her way to work. The lady was quite ill but scared to go to the hospital because she had no money. Gloria arranged for an ambulance to take care of her; she died, however, shortly after. That same night she appeared in Gloria's dream as a beautiful angel ascending into the skies.

Ascending from Evil into the Pure Realms is about the Holocaust. Although not Jewish, Gloria grew up all her life haunted by the Holocaust and the innocent people who were murdered. She wondered what happened to their souls and wanted to commemorate them, floating in the universe, connecting with the world. She glued together two old wooden boxes and used an old broken doll, missing a hand and a foot, as a symbol of the victims. She dressed the doll with a striped outfit similar to the one the prisoners had to wear and planted in its open, cracked head, flowers representing hope and life. She also incorporated into the piece old ashes, burnt objects and bones and added pictures of her relatives, underlining her own connection to the oppressed world.

Another piece, *Mother Teresa*, is treated like an old Russian icon, holding in her hands a jewel, her offerings to humanity; and under her, two small statues of the Virgin Mary, a reference to her sainthood.

Until two years ago Gloria had been very prolific in her art and participated in many exhibits all over town. Magical images from her experiences kept emerging in her memories, leading her to create a visual world of beauty, poetry, spirituality and positive feelings.

“I have strong political views,” she says. “But what comes out in my work is the sweetness, the magic, the beautiful and not the ugliness. I am more interested in peace than just the absence of war. We need to get along and address fairly everyone's concerns. That is my definition of peace; that is also what I want my work to achieve.”

Her social concerns also got her involved in many community projects, for instance, painting murals for a soup kitchen in Cincinnati and offering her services to the Red Cross.

For the past two years Gloria's time and energy have been totally absorbed by the shop she owns and runs on Vine Street. She would like, however, to sell it soon and get back to her creative art. She feels she still has a lot to say and offer; she is in particular eager to create works to sensitize people to the problem of hunger in the world and participate in public art projects.

“Art is very important to me,” she says, “It gives me happiness, and when I do it, I am in heaven. It helps me connect with myself and my experiences, also convey, in a poetic translation, the values I live and believe in.”

Artists as Activists

By SAAD GHOSN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Ascending from Evil into the Pure Realms, mixed media assemblage by Gloria McConnaghy. Photo by Saad Ghosn.